

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3379

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

AMCONSUL LUANDA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LOURENCO MARQUES 333

CORRECTED COPY (KINSHASA ADDED AS INFO ADDEE)

EE.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, AO, PO, MZ

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH MOZAMBIQUE HIGH COMMISSIONER CRESPO
ON PORTUGAL AND ANGOLA

REF: LUANDA 327

1. IN MARCH 27 CALL ON HIGH COMMISSIONER ADMIRAL VICTOR CRESPO
AT MY REQUEST I CONGRATULATED HIM ON HIS ELECTION TO THE
REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL AND ATTEMPTED TO DRAW HIM OUT ON SIG-
NIFICANCE OF INCLUSION ON COUNCIL OF HIM PLUS MAJORS MELO
ANTUNES AND VITOR ALVES WHO HE HAD TOLD ME WERE CLOSE FRIENDS
OF HIS. HIGH COMMISSIONER SEEMED DISCOMFITED BY MY PROBING
AND SAID THAT THERE WAS NO PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE--IN FACT IT
HAD BEEN INTENDED ALL ALONG THAT THEY WOULD BE INCLUDED. AS I
WOULD REALIZE THEY HAD RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT POSITIONS, I.E.,
HE WAS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR MOZAMBIQUE AND THE TWO MAJORS
HAD BEEN MINISTERS WITHOUT PORTFOLIO. MELO ANTUNES WAS NOW
FOREIGN MINISTER AND ALVES WOULD HAVE ANOTHER IMPORTANT POSI-
TION. CRESPO ALSO WAS RATHER TIGHT-LIPPED ABOUT HIS VIEWS ON
EVENTS IN PORTUGAL, SAYING ONLY THAT HE THOUGHT THE MFA PRO-
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GRAM WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL. I SAID REPORTS OF GROWING ANTI-

AMERICANISM IN PORTUGAL WERE WORRISOME AND WONDERED WHAT HIS OPINION WAS. I MENTIONED THAT REPORTS OF THE AMERICAN FLEET SAILING UP THE TAGUS AND AMERICAN PLANES FLYING OVER PORTUGAL MUST BE ALARMING TO THE PORTUGUESE. HE REPLIED THAT THE LEADERS OF PORTUGAL WERE WELL AWARE OF THE REAL SITUATION. I ASKED HIM IF THE PEOPLE WERE NOT TAKEN IN BY THESE RUMORS. HE SAID THAT MANY PEOPLE HAD BELIEVED THESE RUMORS BUT THAT THEY HAD BEEN DENIED BY THE AMERICAN EMBASSY. HE AGREED THAT THERE WAS A STRONG CURRENT OF ANTI-AMERICANISM AND FEARS OF FOREIGN INTERVENTION. HE STATED HE HOPED THE LATTER WOULD NOT COME ABOUT. I RETORTED VERY QUICKLY, "OBVIOUSLY NOT".

2. HIGH COMMISSIONER THEN TURNED TO SUBJECT OF ANGOLA, WHERE HE SAID SITUATION WAS VERY SERIOUS. FIGHTING BETWEEN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS SHOWED A CLEAR PATTERN OF FOREIGN INTERVENTION. I RAISED AN EYEBROW AND SAID, "FOREIGN"? HE REPLIED, "YES, FOREIGN". I ASKED THE HIGH COMMISSIONER HIS OPINION AS TO WHO HAD STARTED THE FRACAS BETWEEN THE MPLA AND THE FNLA. HE REPLIED IT WAS NOT IMPORTANT WHO STARTED THE FIGHTING. WHAT WAS IMPORTANT WAS THAT PORTUGAL WAS DETERMINED TO INSURE STABILITY IN ANGOLA AND RAPID DECOLONIZATION. PORTUGAL WOULD NOT TOLERATE ANY FOREIGN INTERFERENCE. AT THIS POINT, I REPLIED THAT WHILE I HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS, IF HE WAS REFERRING TO THE UNITED STATES, I COULD ASSURE HIM THAT WE HAD ABSOLUTELY NO INTENTION OF INTERVENING IN ANY WAY AND THAT THE USG SHARED THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT'S DESIRE FOR STABILITY IN ANGOLA.

3. CRESPO, WHO SEEMED ESPECIALLY TENSE, THOUGH FRIENDLY AS USUAL, WENT ON TO SAY THAT EVERYONE SHOULD REALIZE THAT THE MPLA COULD NOT WIN, THAT IT WAS IN A POSITION OF INFERIORITY. (THE IMPLICATION WAS THAT ANYONE WHO BACKED THE FNLA BECAUSE HE WAS AFRAID OF THE MPLA WAS MAKING A MISTAKE.) I ASKED THE HIGH COMMISSIONER WHETHER I UNDERSTOOD HIM CORRECTLY. DID HE MEAN TO IMPLY THAT THERE WAS FOREIGN INTERVENTION ON BOTH SIDES? HE REPLIED THAT ACCORDING TO PORTUGUESE INFORMATION IT WAS ONLY ON ONE SIDE. THE DISCUSSION ON THIS SUBJECT ENDED WITH MY STATING THAT IN VIEW OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF HIS REMARKS, I WOULD REPORT THEM TO MY GOVERNMENT. HE NODDED HIS ASSENT.

4. SEPARATE REPORTS FOLLOW ON OTHER SUBJECTS COVERED.
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TM HIGH COMMISSIONER AND TODAY'S PRESS REPORT MELO ANTUNES DUE TO VISIT MOZAMBIQUE AND OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES BRIEFLY AFTER LUANDA.

6. COMMENT: THOUGH CRESPO DID NOT SPECIFICALLY NAME THE UNITED STATES IN CONNECTION WITH FOREIGN INTERVENTION, CONTEXT AND TONE OF HIS REMARKS INDICATED TO ME HE WAS POINTING A

FINGER AT US, AT LEAST AS FAR AS HE MAY THINK WE ARE BEHIND
ZAIRE'S SUPPORT OF FNLA.
WALKER

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